



February 26, 2008

Public Health Committee
Room 3000, Legislative Office Building
Hartford CT 06106

Dear Committee Members:

Please consider this letter of support on behalf of MARC, Inc., of Manchester for Proposed Bill No. 494.

MARC, Inc. was started in May, 1952 by a small group of parents who wanted more for their children with disabilities than was then being offered. Over the years MARC, Inc., has grown from its first home in a church basement, to a sheltered workshop, to an old school building, and finally to its present location on West Middle Turnpike. Continually upgrading and improving services offered to their clients. MARC, Inc., is presently seeking to again update their services and facilities with the construction of a new facility in the Town of Manchester.

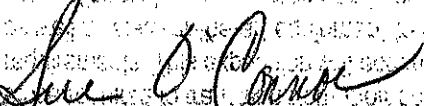
This new, state-of-the-art facility will allow MARC, Inc. to expand the number of people served. Without the new, larger facility MARC may be required to limit or suspend enrollment of additional clients into their services, particularly those served by MARC's Senior Center. The new facility will include a greatly expanded Senior Center to meet the needs of those required to transition from their community based employment services to facility services due to medical requirements. This expansion will accommodate the need for additional restrooms, conference rooms, and office space, as well as state-of-the-art equipment to enhance service delivery, a physical therapy/exercise room to meet occupational/physical therapy needs and "green space" to allow for picnic tables and/or gazebo for their clients, staff and visitors.

Under the visionary guidance of Laurie Prytko, and more recently under the strong leadership of Ken Charpentier, MARC has never failed to rise to any challenge involving Manchester or its citizens where its resources could make an impact, regardless of the financial or manpower issues involved.

Over the years, the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce has partnered with MARC, Inc., in numerous programs and has seen first-hand the effect MARC's services have on the community at large as well as the business community. The Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce recognizes the tremendous contribution MARC has made to our Town, and foresees even greater accomplishments that will benefit area residents and businesses if MARC is able to successfully expand here in Manchester.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Sue O'Connor, President